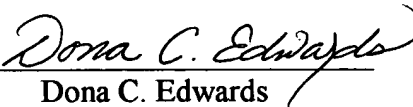


REMARKS

The Examiner rendered a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment because the Amendment (including a submission for an RCE) filed on March 8, 2004 failed to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121. Specifically, status identifier "Previously Amended" in claims 2, 3, 6 and 12 should read "Previously Presented." Claims 2, 3, 6, and 12 have been corrected accordingly. The entire "Amendments to the Claims" section is being re-submitted for compliance with 37 CFR 1.121 and approval of the Examiner.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-15 remain pending in the application. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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